

shall finde in bargaines, let them take
 heede that they
 trouble not the Churche overmuch, but
 commende
 the cause unto God, «, . . Last of all, let
 them with
 diligence admonishe the ritche men, that
 they suffer
 not themselves to be entangled with the
 shewe of
 ritches." "

" This/' wrote an Anglican divine in
 reference to the
 ecclesiastical condemnation of usury, " hath
 been the
 generall judgment of the Church for above
 this fiftene
 hundred yeeres, without opposition, in
 this point.
 Poor sillie Church of Christ, that could
 never finde a
 lawfull usurie before this golden age wherein
 we live.^{11M}

The first fact which strikes the modern
 student of
 this body of teaching is its continuity
 with the past.
 In its insistence that buying and selling,
 letting and
 hiring, lending and borrowing, are to be
 controlled by a
 moral law, of which the Church is the
 guardian, religious
 opinion after the Reformation did not differ
 from religious
 opinion before it. The reformers
 themselves were
 conscious, neither of the emancipation from
 the economic
 follies of the age of mediaeval darkness
 ascribed to
 them in the eighteenth century, nor of the
 repudiation
 of the traditional economic morality of
 Christendom,
 which some writers have held to have
 been the result
 of the revolt from Rome. The relation in

which they
conceived themselves to stand to the
social theory of
the mediaeval Church is shown by the
authorities to
whom they appealed. " Therefore I would
not," wrote
Dr. Thomas Wilson, Master of Requests and
for a short
time Secretary of State, " have men
altogether to be
enemies to the canon lawe, and to
condempne every
thinge there written, because the Popes
were aucthours
of them, as though no good lawe coulde bee
made by
them. . . . Nay, I will saye playnely, that
there are
some suche lawes made by the Popes as
be righte
godly, saye others what they list." ^M From
the lips
of a Tudor official, such sentiments fell,
perhaps, with
a certain piquancy. But, in their appeal
to the